

SC State awarded \$2 Million from

# NSF to Enhance Astronomy Program

South Carolina State University has received a five-year fellowships to attend the graduate program in astronomy at award from the National Science Foundation worth more Clemson. Students will have the opportunity to intern at than two million dollars (\$2,096,841)

to expand its astronomy program.

The University is one of only four schools nationally to win the award designed to enhance minority participation in astronomy and astrophysics. The SC State program entitled “A Partnership in Observational and Computational Astronomy (POCA) includes funds for faculty research, undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, planetarium programs, and web-based activities.

The SC State team includes: Dr. Donald Walter, principal investigator, Dr. Jennifer Cash, Dr. Elizabeth Mayo, and Dr. Daniel Smith, in partnership with scientists at Clemson University and the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in Tucson, Arizona.

Over the next five years, high school students will be recruited to attend SC State to major in physics with an interest in astronomy. The program will develop a strong mentorship which will support student involvement in astronomy throughout the year. Scholarships will be now be able to expand its program both locally and available for their undergraduate education followed by nationally,” stated Dr. Walter.



SC State manages this 30 inch telescope, located at the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona.

Clemson as well as in Arizona and South America. Faculty members will conduct astrophysical research and major education and outreach activities on SC State’s campus through the web and at the campus Planetarium.

SC State is one of only a few minority institutions in the Nation with an astronomy option for its physics majors. The University is also part of a consortium that manages a 50-inch telescope in Arizona at the Kitt Peak National Observatory. Faculty and students control the telescope remotely over the Internet from their computers in Orangeburg, S.C. as it collects pictures of nearby stars and distant galaxies. “While the University has been involved with astronomy for more than a decade, it will



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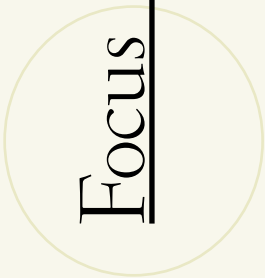


**SOUTH CAROLINA  
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A newsletter for alumni, friends, faculty & staff | May 2008



Dr. Leonard A. McIntyre, Interim President, Charlene Johnson, Athletics Director, and Hardeep Judge, Tennis Coach, are proud to announce the 2008 MEAC Men’s and Women’s Tennis Champions.



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## A Message from the Interim President



Dr. Leonard A. McIntyre

Greetings:

South Carolina State University is poised to continue its mission of excellence in education by providing a nurturing environment to assist students with accomplishing their goals. Today, we continue to build upon the future to ensure our legacy of producing high-quality graduates.

I continue to affirm that the immediate and future needs of this institution are only to be achieved by working collaboratively and collectively, and positioning ourselves for the future with the proper planning, the resources, the commitment, and the courage to confront the rapid pace of change.

The nucleus of our University has always been and continues to be our students. Over the past few years, we have witnessed a trend of increased student enrollment. Thus, we have developed the **Managing Student Growth Committee** to provide a comprehensive plan to ensure that all aspects of student enrollment are being addressed. Specifically, those areas include sufficient faculty, classroom space, available courses, housing, programs and services, financial aid, admissions standards, and targeted recruitment in the areas of nursing, education, Honor's Program, Spanish and engineering.

Additionally, the University received a \$600,000 grant from the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration to provide full tuition scholarships, book stipends, and guaranteed summer internships for six students. This gift clearly demonstrates the confidence our corporate and community partners have in the institution.

The University recognizes that its success is dependent upon embracing change and forward movement. We continue our efforts to obtain funding for our legislative priorities which include deferred maintenance, capital improvements, and various programs. In addition, we are excited about receiving the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR)** for the 3rd consecutive year. The award was based on the University's Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007.

As a senior, comprehensive teaching institution, we are making tremendous contributions in the area of education. The University's **Bridge Program** is designed to support students as they matriculate through the education program and provide opportunities to high school students to successfully enter the teacher education program at SC State. This program seeks to address the shortage of qualified teachers at all levels and all subject areas, as well as the serious shortages in math, science, foreign language and special education.

In keeping with our principle of providing excellence in all programs, the South Carolina State Board of Nursing gave full approval to the SC State Nursing Program through June 30, 2009, contiguous with its accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Board cited significant improvement and excellence in preparing students for the profession as evidenced by high pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

SC State has persevered for over 112 years, and this could not have been realized without each of you making contributions to an institution that has given so much. I ask for your continued support as we work together to make an even better SC State for our future generations.

## A Year in Review of the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium

"The Stanback," on the campus of South Carolina State University

By Ingrid Owens and Harriett Hilton

On any given day, the Stanback is host to visitors from various walks of life, including regular visits by area schools with students whose ages range from three to seventeen, high school students on college tours of SC State, senior citizens, church groups, and SC State students, faculty, staff and alumni. In January, Margaret Olin, a professor at the Art Institute of Chicago, visited because while doing online research for her new book, to her surprise, the Stanback was in possession of the *Harlem on My Mind* exhibit. She promises to mention SC State and The Stanback in her book.

The Stanback was constructed in 1980 and named for the first African-American chairman of the University's Board of Trustees, Isreal Pinkney Stanback. The Stanback was closed for several years, renovated and reopened for 2007 Founders' Day with *Images of America: African American Voices*, selections from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Walker.

The Stanback is of major national importance as the only facility of its kind - an interdisciplinary Museum and Planetarium on any Historically Black College and University in this country. It is a constant source of artistic inspiration, scientific exploration, and cultural enrichment, whose facilities are chosen as the perfect "meeting place" by faculty, staff, community organizations such as the Orangeburg Young Professionals, and international visitors. SC State students find the café tables on the patio to be a relaxing place to read, bring their laptops and surf the internet or just retreat when the weather permits. The ambiance at the Stanback is why it was host to the SC State National Alumni meeting last July and will host the Alumni Class of '58 Reunion in May, a wedding/reception and a family reunion in July of this year.

As part of the Stanback's revival, the Friends of the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium **"the Friends"** has re-emerged. Guided by Ellen Zisholtz, Director of the Stanback, and founding members of the Friends, Barbara Townsend, Edna Fischer, Barbara Clark, and Dr. Clemmie E. Webber, co-chairs Nita Weston-Harris and Ingrid Owens are leading several volunteer members from the SC State faculty and staff, community professionals, teachers, and associates. As a result, the Stanback and the Friends have formed professional and artistic collaborations with several businesses and organizations in the community, such as the management and staff of Rachel's Island, the Orangeburg Chapter of the Links, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., artists, and authors.

Since the Grand Opening of the Stanback in February, 2007, several new and original programs have been developed for use in the planetarium. These programs include: *The Night Sky Series* which tracks the seasonal changes of the interesting objects that can be viewed from Orangeburg, SC throughout the year, the *Ancient Culture Series*, which highlights the early advances in Astronomy attributed to ancient cultures from around the world, and *The Planets*, which takes the visitor on a tour of our Solar System and discusses and locates, in the night sky, the planets that are visible to the naked eye. The Stanback's Planetarium can accommodate up to 82 visitors, and is a wonderful educational resource. It features a Minolta IIB Planetarium Star Projector that can project 4000 stars onto the 40-foot domed ceiling, and can simulate the evening sky from any place, date or time. In addition, there are special viewings of movie-style programs for both the public and school groups presented by Dr. Elizabeth Mayo, the Planetarium Manager. Her knowledge of the celestial is impressive, and her excitement of all things related to astronomy contagious.

Special planetarium presentations have also been developed in

conjunction with the exhibitions in the galleries and at the request of the public. Popular programs among educators are: *The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance*, which features the visual, literary, and performing artists of the Harlem Renaissance, *Exploring with Hubble: Views from the Hubble Space Telescope* which showcases the spectacular images from the Hubble Space Telescope and features an original musical composition by James Orlick of SC State's Department of Visual and Performing Arts, and the birthday party special, *The Astronomy of Harry Potter*, which explores the astronomical references in the Harry Potter novels. In addition, Dr. Mayo travels to local schools and community groups with the Star Lab portable Planetarium.

Also available at the Stanback Planetarium are "designer" shows for educators. Upon request, the planetarium manager will build an original planetarium program based on the needs of the requesting teacher. Over the past year, several area schools as well as SC State University classes have made use of this valuable option.

As a result of the previous year's successful exhibits, planetarium offerings, and community affiliations, the Stanback is pleased to announce foot traffic to the tune of 15,000 and several donations of art collections. In 2007, the Stanback featured Part I of *Harlem on My Mind* for the opening reception for Homecoming. This exhibition of photographic murals was created for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 1969 and donated to the Stanback by the New York Public Library and the

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. It has only been seen, so far, at the original exhibition in New York and at the Stanback. As if it wasn't enough to present the exhibit, we welcomed its curator and author of the reprinted catalogue, Mr. Allon Schoener. The opening was most momentous! As a result of the exhibition, Ellen Zisholtz, the Stanback Director, was invited to participate in a panel, *Harlem Then and Now*, at the Schomburg Center in NYC.

Currently on exhibit is Part II of *Harlem on My Mind*, in conjunction with the *Hubble: New Views of the Universe*, an interactive display of light, sound and music. The Hubble was installed by scientists and engineers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**). That exhibit opening was a scientific celebrity showcase. On the 112th Founders' Day Weekend, Dr. Mark Voit, who created the original exhibition and accompanying book, Maurice Henderson of NASA, and Dr. Don Walter, the SC State Physics

professor who worked on the Hubble, were featured scientists. Eugene Robinson, a journalist at *The Washington Post* and Felton graduate, was a special guest and the Founders' Day speaker.

The Stanback will be working toward accreditation from the American Association of Museums and is developing an Advisory Board which will include prominent individuals within the National Museum world.

The Stanback Planetarium has been selected for a partnership with NASA and the Hayden Planetarium of the American Museum of Natural History that allows a weekly stream of content to be delivered electronically to the museum lobby, bringing the excitement of scientific discovery through original feature stories in high definition video, high-quality visualizations of data, and the latest images and news from the field. The Stanback frequently features the artistic works of the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers (filmmakers screen their films and interact with the audience once a month at programs which are FREE for the community), and encourages local filmmakers to submit their works to the Southern Arts Federation for consideration in upcoming projects and exhibitions.

Students are an integral part of the Stanback. The Museum class,



"Riot" is one of the many photos currently displayed at the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium.



## Tiffany Burgess of Kingstree, S.C. Awarded \$5,000 Scholarship in Alltel Wireless' Fourth Annual "Words of Wisdom" Essay Contest

*Burgess' essay on African American history selected in nationwide essay competition featuring Dr. Maya Angelou*

South Carolina State University freshman Tiffany Burgess from Kingstree, SC. was selected as a grand prize winner in Alltel Wireless' fourth annual "Words of Wisdom" essay contest for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Burgess was one of ten winners selected from a pool of over 1,300 applicants and received a \$5,000 scholarship to the HBCU of her choice. Burgess also traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas for a reception in her honor at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library where she was presented her award by world-renowned poet, Dr. Maya Angelou.

Burgess' essay was selected by educators, business leaders, and Alltel Wireless employees based on her response to the essay question, "In remembering the past, what will you do to contribute to a brighter future?"

In her essay, Burgess compares life's trials to that of a tree taking root. She writes, "Just like the things that try to prevent the tree from growing, there are things that [can] delay ... [people] from getting to where they intend to go...Having a determined strong-minded mentality [will help people get] through the storm and rain...As people continue to stand, they are like that strong tree; their roots become stronger, healthier, sturdier and thicker." Following graduation from SC State University, Burgess plans to "give back to [her] community and surrounding areas in ways that are not just beneficial to one race, creed, social economic class, or culture" by teaching biology at an area high school and sharing her story and words of inspiration.

"This award speaks volumes of the students we have at SC State University. Tiffany is a wonderful example of an expressive mind in which intellect, strength and dedication to a brighter future reverberate," said Dr. Leonard A. McIntyre, Interim President of SC State University.

"Alltel Wireless continues to celebrate the achievements of African American students with our 'Words of Wisdom' essay contest," said Regina Woziwodzki, Director of Multicultural Marketing for Alltel. "It is with such pride and respect for their accomplishments that we honor these ten students for their commitment to their education and the

future."

"The challenges our predecessors faced serve as a constant reminder that we must all do our part to ensure a brighter tomorrow," said Dr. Angelou. "These young people are truly an inspiration. I enjoyed spending time with each of them and hearing about their plans for our future."

To continue the celebration, Burgess and her guests also enjoyed a private concert with R&B sensation Ruben Studdard at the Windsong Performing Arts Center. Studdard, a HBCU graduate from Alabama A&M University, performed at the "Words of Wisdom" reception for the first time this year.



SC State student Tiffany Burgess (polka dots) and friends with Dr. Maya Angelou.

"Pursuing a quality college education can be a costly endeavor," said Studdard. "I applaud all the scholarship recipients for their commitment to furthering their education by participating in programs that celebrate our unique culture and history."

While in Little Rock, Burgess toured local historical landmarks including the Arkansas Governor's Mansion and Central High School, where nine African American students led the way for public school integration in the United States.

### About Alltel Wireless

Alltel continues to provide choice and control to the customer's wireless experience with the recently announced expansion to "My Circle," an industry-defining feature giving customers the freedom of unlimited calling to and from five, 10 or 20 numbers on any network for free. Alltel Wireless was the first to offer Anytime Plan Changes, giving customers the flexibility to change their calling plans at any time, without extending their current contract. In addition, Alltel offers Voice2TXT, a feature that quickly converts incoming voicemails to text messages in the customer's inbox. Alltel is owner and operator of the nation's largest wireless network and has more than 12 million customers. For more information about Alltel, please visit [www.alltel.com](http://www.alltel.com).

## College Summit South Carolina Making an Impact at SC State

More than 100 College Summit Alumni attend SC State

by Vanessa Lillie, PR and Communications Manager, College Summit

A college graduate can expect to earn a million dollars more over his or her lifetime, and South Carolina State University is doing its part to ensure more of the state's students will be among those who benefit from a college education.

In April 2006, South Carolina State partnered with College Summit, a national nonprofit organization that works with high schools, school districts, and colleges to increase college enrollment by using a systemic approach that combines teacher training, post-secondary planning, curriculum, peer leadership, and data management that facilitates accountability. The partnership has contributed to over 700 seniors participating in College Summit South Carolina, including approximately 100 of the students currently enrolled at South Carolina State.

"Often HBCUs are overlooked and given too little credit for the tremendous impact they have upon the communities and people they serve. As a graduate of an HBCU it was important to me that College Summit-South Carolina had strong ties to one of the cornerstones of our community," says YaKima Rhinehart, Executive Director of the program. "From the moment we approached the University, it was clear that SC State was committed to

College Summit's mission, not because of the recruitment benefits, but because providing more educational opportunities for the students of South Carolina was the right thing to do."

The partnership has been both productive and innovative in that it was the first five-year agreement ever established between College Summit and a partner college, and the model of having a regional office housed on a college campus has proved so fruitful that it has been replicated in West Virginia.

Since its inception, College Summit South Carolina has grown

to serve students in thirteen high schools across seven school districts and is on track for increasing the number of students served by more than 30% for the 2008-2009 school term. The program aims to increase the 2-year and 4-year college-going rate of students at participating low-income high schools by at least 20 percent over baseline, across the state. By 2010, College Summit South Carolina will serve at least 3,000 students each year—representing over 10% of all low-income students in the state. Throughout the five year partnership, College Summit will invest over \$2.5 million in national resources to support the region in reaching its goal.

The partnership includes an in-kind contribution of campus office space located in Staley Hall. The university also provides campus facilities for annual summer workshops where rising seniors kick off their college application process. This summer, there will be three workshops, serving approximately 120 students.

College Summit South Carolina is hoping to foster a deeper relationship with SC State by encouraging alumni to volunteer at one of the summer workshops. Volunteers work with a small group of rising seniors to craft personal statements for their college applications. Volunteers can also share their own college and professional experiences with students, many of whom have the opportunity to be the first

generation in their families to attend college. Additionally, 79% of College Summit workshop participants enroll in college, nearly double the national average of 46% for low-income high school graduates—an achievement that helps these students break the cycle of poverty in their families forever.

"College Summit lets students be themselves and brings out the best in each one. It helps students find the resources they need in high school, college, or after they have graduated and entered the real world." Tymon Graham is a College Summit South Carolina

Alumnus and a sophomore at SC State. He is majoring in English Education and will some day become a superintendent.

College Summit currently works in ten states and the District of Columbia and has served 36,000 students from low income communities, resulting in significant increases in college enrollment rates school-wide over their own baselines. College Summit's innovative approach to college access recognizes that the reasons a student goes to college include a host of factors in addition to grades and SAT scores, including teacher and peer expectations about higher education and the availability of well-prepared educators who support a student through the entire college preparation and application process.

To learn more about College Summit or volunteering at a workshop, please visit [www.collegesummit.org](http://www.collegesummit.org).

### I.P. continued

taught by Ellen Zisholtz, not only participates in all activities, but also has been involved with national and regional professional museum events. The class had the opportunity to attend the Institute of Museum and Library Services Conference in Atlanta, *Preserving America's Diverse Heritage*, a part of the national initiative, *Connecting to Collections*. Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS in Washington, DC, said, "It was an honor to have the SC State students at the conference."

Adrian Simmons was the first student to participate on the film panel of the Southern Arts Federation's Southern Circuit Film Festival. This year, she will be joined by Josh Davis and Robyn Hemby.

The Stanback is a vital cultural, artistic, educational, and astronomical hub for SC State and the community of Orangeburg, as well as the surrounding counties and the state. The Stanback remains committed to community service by enhancing the appreciation of both the arts and sciences in a single facility and is a welcome respite in an increasingly hurried and complex world.



# University ‘feeling good’ - SC State keeper of James Brown’s memorabilia exhibit to open in October

By Lee Tant, T&D Staff Writer (Special to the FOCUS)

South Carolina State University has been selected to preserve the memorabilia of the “The Godfather of Soul.”

During homecoming week in October, the University will unveil a James Brown Exhibit at the I.P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium. The exhibit will feature many touchstones of his legacy, including his original music scores, costumes, red shoes with the initials “JB” inscribed on them, portraits, and a telescope, among many other items.

“It’s wonderful that we can create an exhibit to educate the community and public on James Brown and his legacy,” SC State interim President Dr. Leonard McIntyre said Thursday.

The University will have custody of Brown’s memorabilia for up to three years while the various lawsuits surrounding his estate are resolved.

Brown, who was born in Barnwell, SC, won two Grammy Awards over the course of his storied music career, which spanned half a century.

Brown, who was also known as the “Hardest Working Man in Show Business,” had many hit records such as “Papa’s Got a Brand New Bag” and “I Got You (I Feel Good).”

He was also intimately involved in the Civil Rights Movement and was an amateur astronomer.

SC State’s selection as the only institution given the responsibility of

preserving Brown’s belongings was announced during Thursday’s board meeting.

McIntyre noted that Brown set aside a large portion of his fortune to establish a scholarship fund so that underprivileged children in South Carolina and Georgia can attend college.

“He was very supportive of education. His will reflects that,” he said.

McIntyre and other SC State officials recently visited Brown’s estate in Beech Island. They were the first individuals other than family and attorneys to be allowed on the grounds since Brown died in 2006.

“It was quite a unique experience,” McIntyre said.

In addition to the exhibit, a concert of Brown’s music is also planned for the Homecoming Weekend Festivities.

McIntyre was excited about the prospect of working with Brown’s caretaker, David Washington, to provide further insight and unforgettable stories about the legendary R&B singer. McIntyre hopes Washington will give lectures and presentations about Brown’s legacy to supplement the exhibit.

Brown’s late mother, Susie Behling Brown, was a longtime resident of the Bamberg County Nursing Center and was educated in the county’s public schools. Brown made a \$25,000 donation in his mother’s name to construct a porch and sunroom at that nursing home before his death. That project was completed early last year.



## SC State’s Highlights



The Young Men of Distinction, young men who attend Charleston Development Academy in Charleston, South Carolina recently performed at SC State. Pictured from left to right: Dondre Hamm, Tyrel Moore, Richorn Rouse, Advisor, Mr. Graham, Micheal Tyler, DeAntre Robinson, Devin Parker, Jawan Redden, Joshua White, Aamad Hamilton, Faculty Advisor, Shawn Johnson, DeJaun Fulton. Also pictured is SC State’s Interim President Leonard A. McIntyre, Board of Trustees Chairman Maurice G. Washington, and Delbert T. Foster, 1890 Extension Administrator. The Young Men of Distinction is an initiative designed to develop young men holistically. The young men gain poise and confidence and learn how to handle all social situations with ease. The program covers entrepreneurship skills, conflict resolutions, introductions, conversations, grooming, sportsmanship, handshaking, dining, and table manners. The young men use the skills learned at area restaurants, galleries, and museums.



The Burrell E. Workman, Jr. Memorial Scholarship is annually awarded to a rising senior at SC State in Orangeburg, S.C. who plans to become a medical doctor. Established in August 1973, by Mr. and Mrs. George R. Barnes of Orangeburg, S.C., the Workman Scholarships are in memoriam of Mrs. Barnes’ father, Burrell Eugene Workman, Jr. of Chattanooga, Tenn. Pictured from left are: Dr. Judith Salley, Kyle Bowrin (scholarship recipient), Mrs. Joy Barnes, and Interim President Leonard A. McIntyre.

# SC State

## UNIVERSITY

Invest in the next generation of leadership here at SC State University as we prepare our students to compete in a dynamic global society.

*Leonard McIntyre*

Dr. Leonard A. McIntyre  
Interim President, SC State University

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Duke Energy awarded several SC State students with an internship along with a \$5,000 scholarship. Pictured are (from left): April Hutton, SC State Nuclear Engineering, Dr. Valarie Fields, Interim-VP Student Affairs, Daniel Steele, Nuclear Engineering Student, Regina Phillips, and Kevin Fullington, Duke Energy, Nkosi Kennedy, Student Computer Science, and Joseph B. Thomas, Jr., Interim Director Career Center.